

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 009721  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 SS-15 DODE-00 NSC-05 SP-02  
OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 MC-02 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 EB-07 /075 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JRCOUNTRYMAN:CEJ  
APPROVED BY P:PHABIB  
PM/SAS -MR. KOCHANNEK  
NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.  
DOD/ISA-LJANKA  
S/S:PSBRIDGES

-----150420Z 051834 /60

P R 150154Z JAN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
CHUSMTM  
CINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 009721

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: ADVANCED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT FOR SAG

REF: JIDDA 0127, JIDDA 0187

1. DEPT AND DOD AGREE IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS IF SULTAN  
WERE TO DELAY SENDING LETTER TO EMBASSY REGARDING SAUDI  
SELECTION OF F-15 AS THE ADVANCED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT FOR THE  
ROYAL SAUDI AIR FORCE.

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2. WE ARE PLEASED THAT CHUSMTM BG AHMANN CREATED THE RIGHT  
ATMOSPHERE FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS OVER THE  
INTRODUCTION OF ADVANCED FIGHTER INTO THE SAUDI INVENTORY  
WHEN HE ALLUDED (PARA 2 REFTTEL) TO THE PROBLEM OF THE  
RSAF'S ABSORBING 60 ADDITIONAL F-5S AND TO ;SMTM'S RE-  
COMMENDATION THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF A FOLLOW-ON FIGHTER  
BE DELAYED.

3. AS EMBASSY AND USMTM ARE AWARE, AT THE TIME USG GAVE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO PROVIDING ADVANCED FIGHTER TO THE RSAF, WE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT SAUDI DECISIONS ON THE ADVANCED FIGHTER WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY INFLUENCED BY SAUDI PROGRESS WITH THE CURRENT F-5 PROGRAM AND BY THE DEGREE OF SUCCESS SAG HAS IN DEVELOPING AND

TRAINING OF MANPOWER WITH REQUISITE TECHNICAL SKILLS AS WELL AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADEQUATE FACILITIES IN SUPPORT OF SUCH AIRCRAFT. WE WOULD HOPE THEREFORE THAT BOTH EMBASSY AND USMTM WOULD AVAIL THEMSELVES OF APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITIES TO REMIND THE SAUDIS OF THE NEED TO GIVE QUESTION OF ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY FULL CONSIDERATION IN DELIBERATIONS WITH REGARD TO ACQUISITION OF ADVANCED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT.

4. YOU SHOULD ALSO POINT OUT TO SULTAN THAT IN ANY EVENT FEBRUARY TIMING FOR RECEIPT OF LETTER REQUESTING F-15S WOULD IN OUR JUDGMENT NOT BE OPPORTUNE. WE BELIEVE MORE TIME SHOULD BE GIVEN BOTH TO NEW ADMINISTRATION AND TO NEW MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO STUDY ISSUE OF ARMS SALES IN CONTEXT OF OUR OVERALL POLICY REQUIREMENTS BEFORE THUS PRESENTING THEM WITH SPECIFIC NEW REQUEST, WHICH COULD HAVE EFFECT OF INTRODUCING COMPLICATIONS INTO SITUATION.

5. THIS IS A JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE.

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KISSINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** JRCOUNTRYMAN:CEJ  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** ADVANCED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT FOR SAG  
**TAGS:** MASS, SA, US  
**To:** JIDDA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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